

**Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ASSERTING FLOW CONTROL AT  
INPUT PORTS OF A SHARED-MEMORY SWITCH**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In a method of allocating a shared resource among a plurality of competing  
5 applicants, a share of the resource allocated to one of the applicants is limited on the basis  
of a current proportion of the resource allocated to the applicant and a total of respective  
shares of the resource currently allocated to all of the applicants.